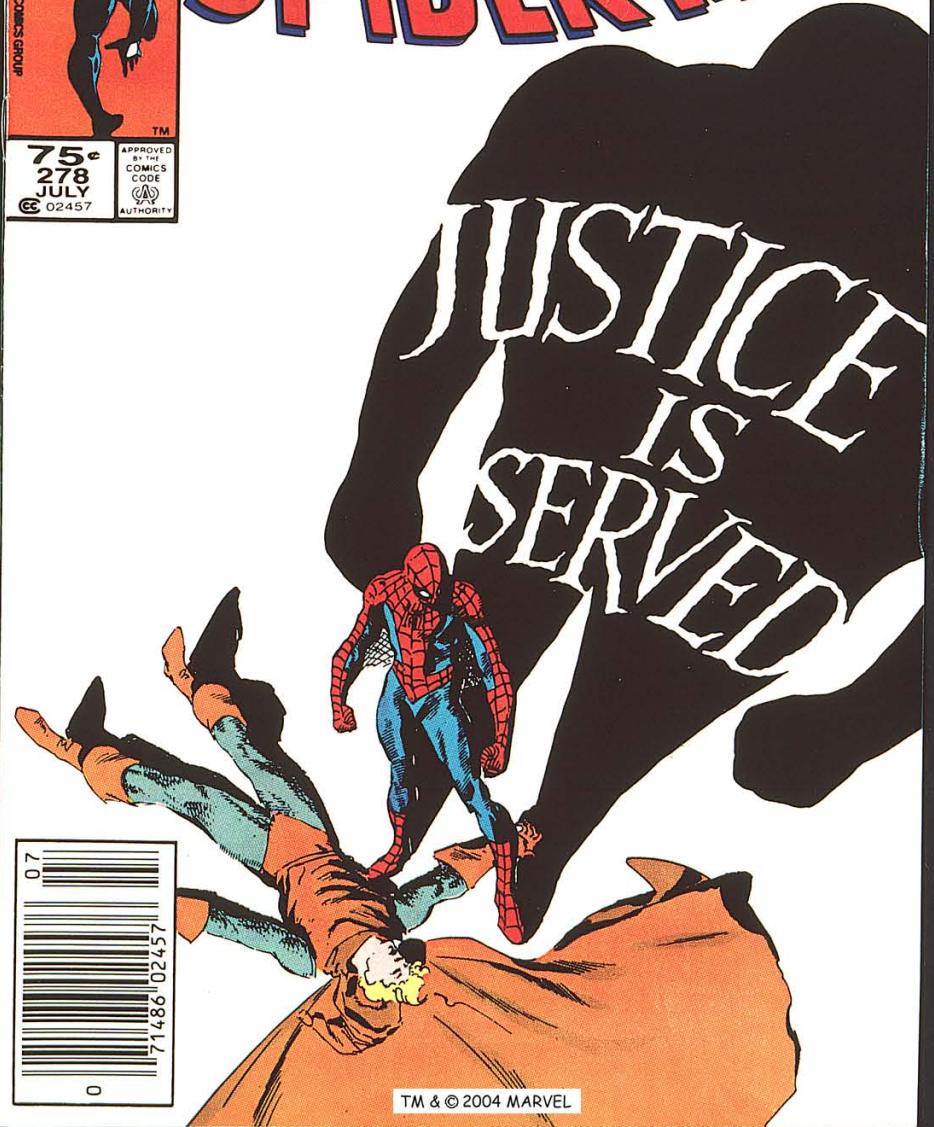
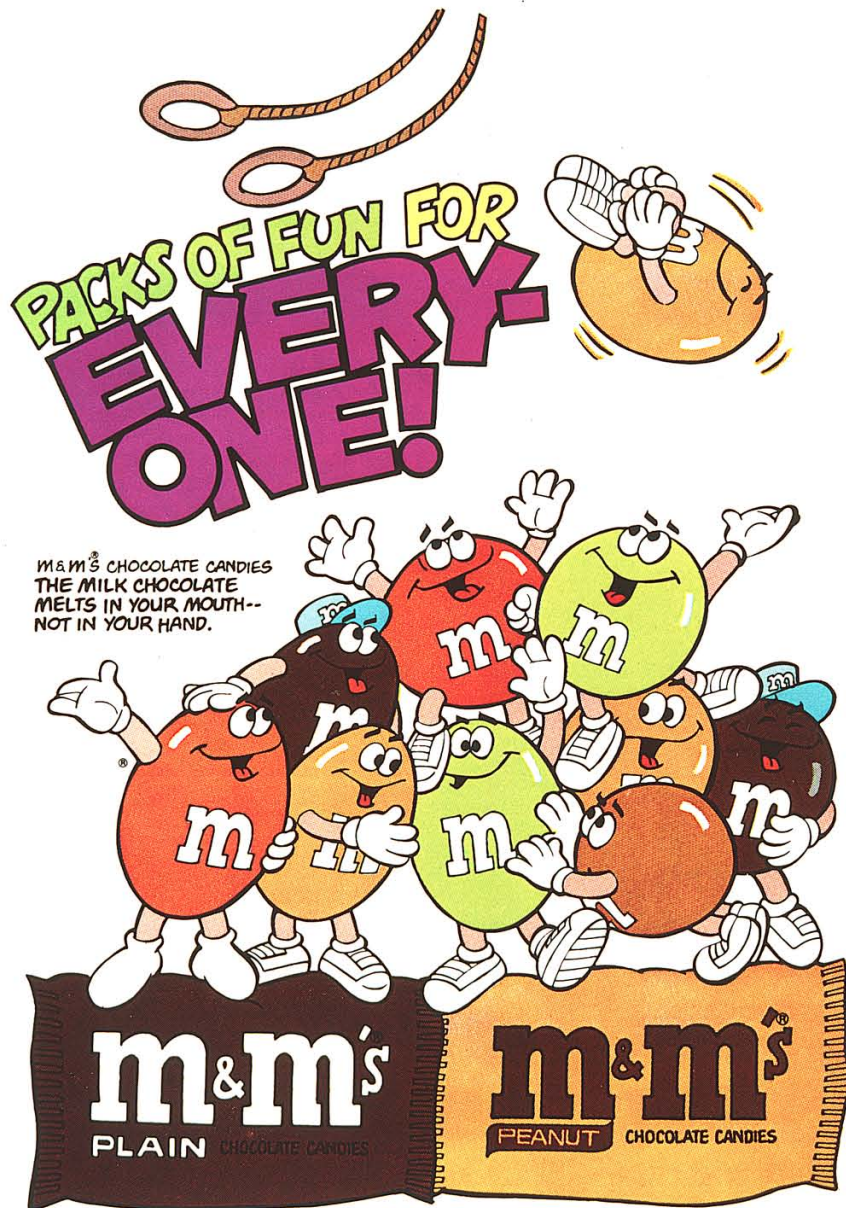


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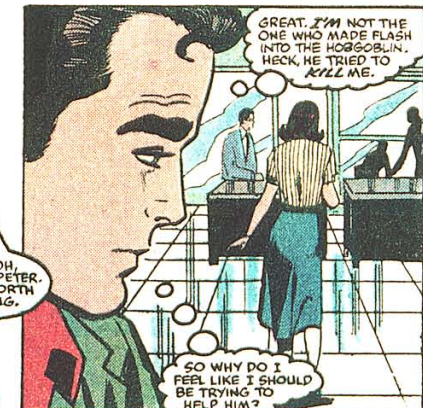
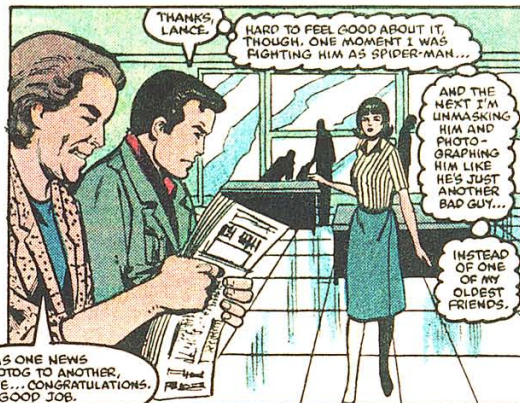
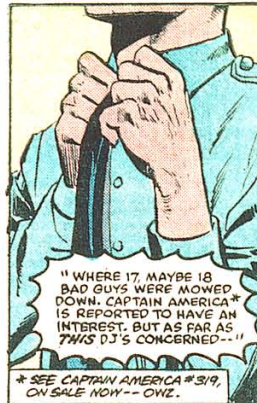
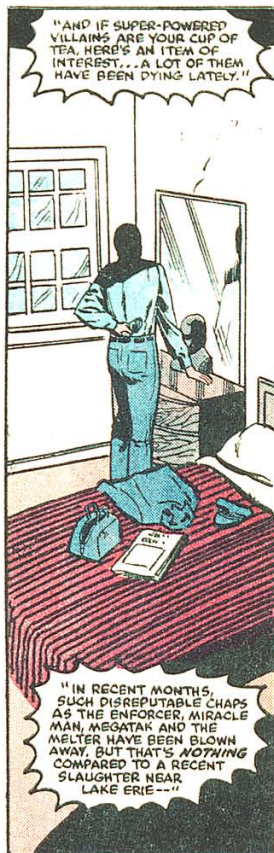
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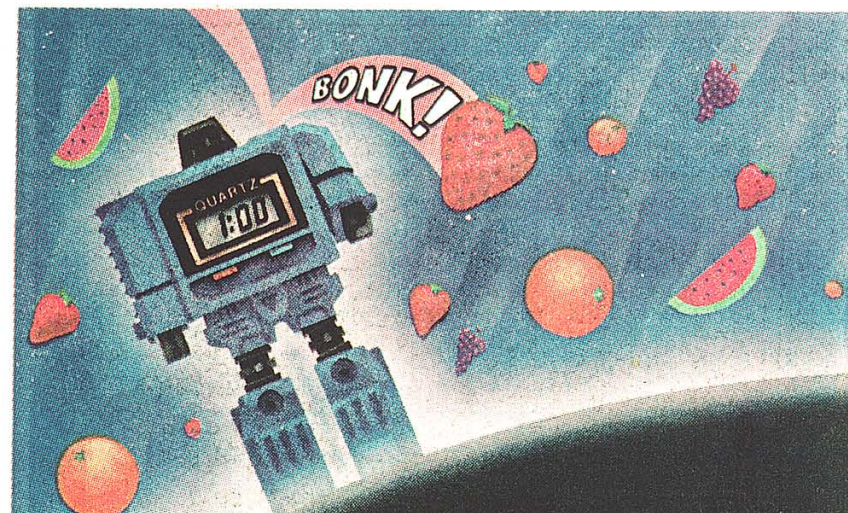
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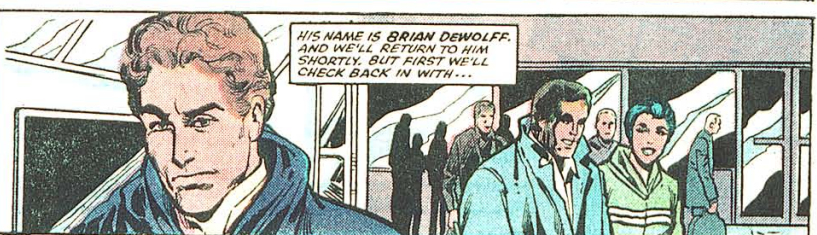
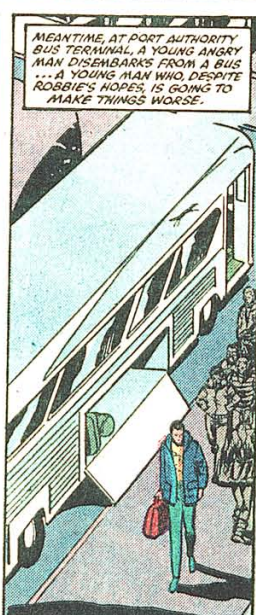
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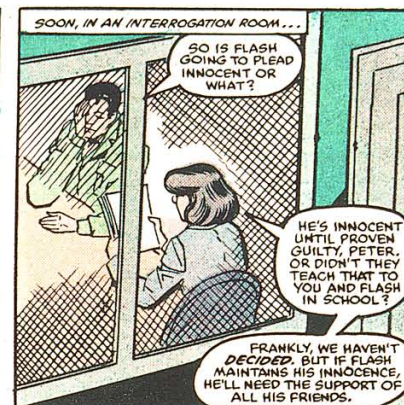
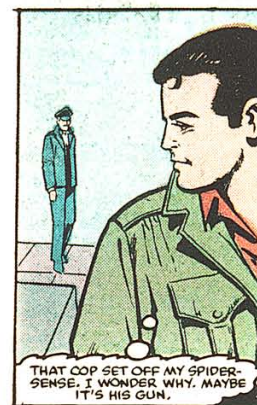
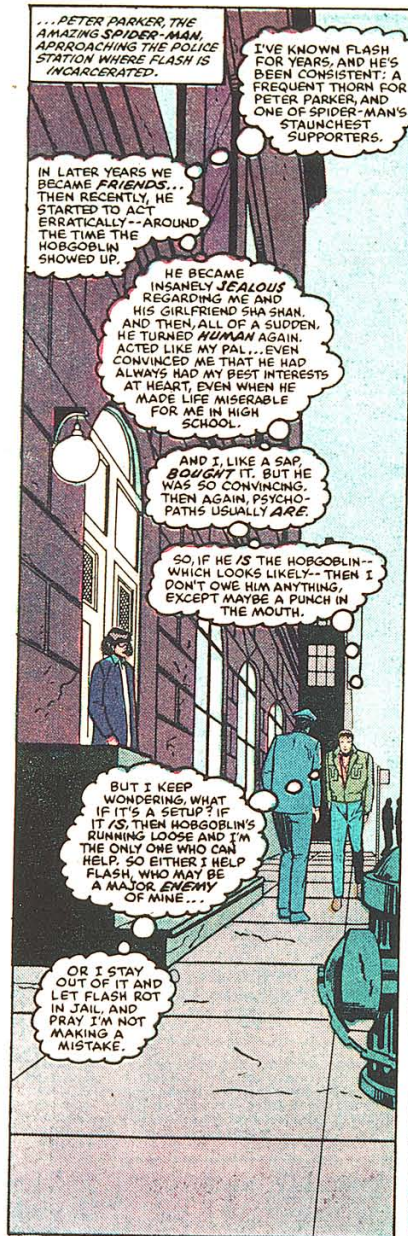
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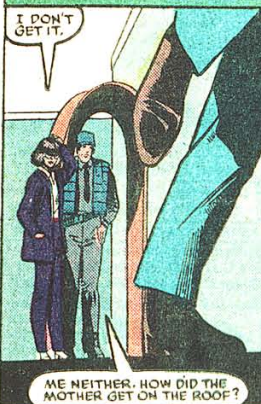
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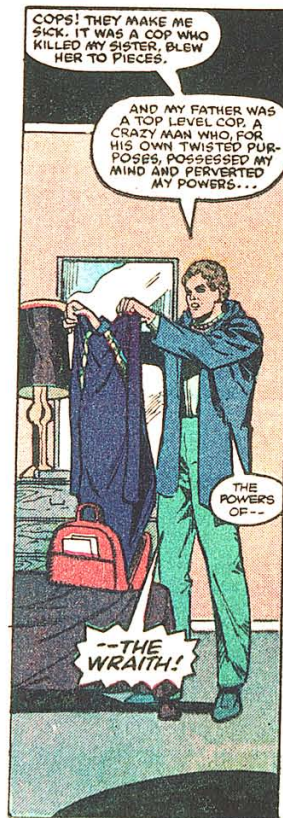
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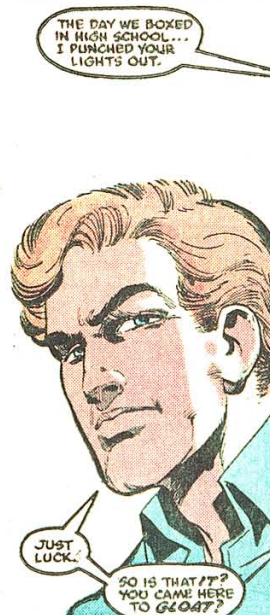
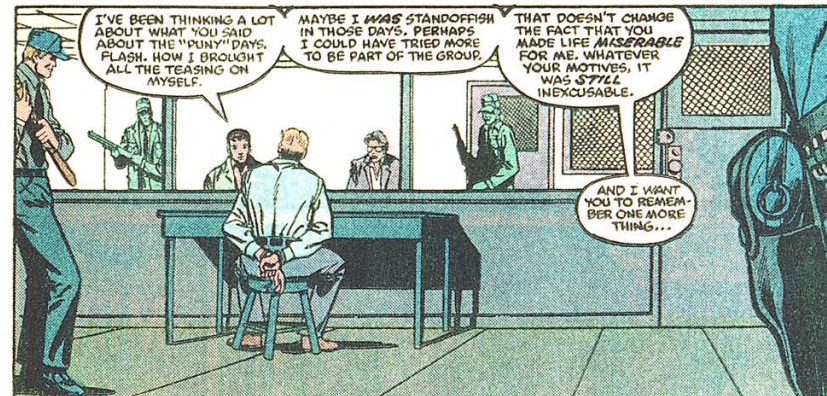
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THE SIN-EATER, A COP TOOK HER AWAY FROM ME. HE THOUGHT, SINCE I WAS OUT IN CALIFORNIA, I WOULDN'T FIND OUT. BUT I DID!

BRIAN DEWOLFF: A YOUNG MAN, A HEROIC MAN, DRIVEN NOW BY DEMONS ONLY HE CAN SEE. HIS SISTER WAS A TOUCHSTONE FOR REALITY. WHEN HE LOST HER, HE LOST...

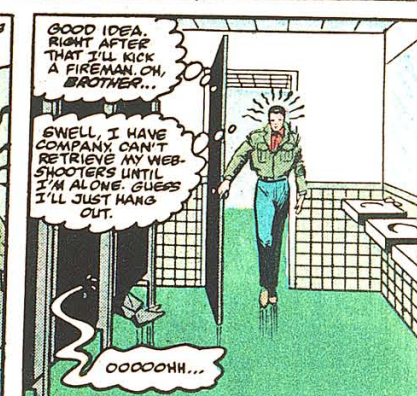
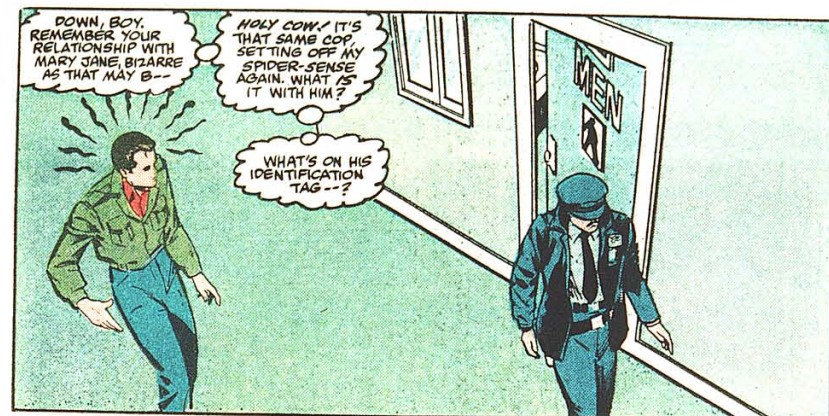
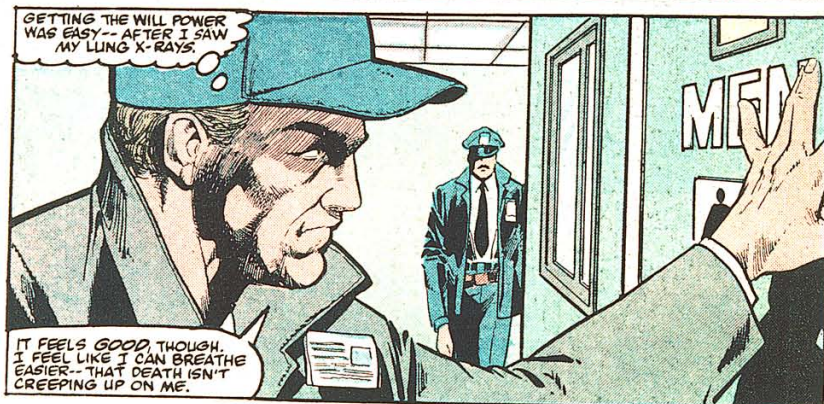


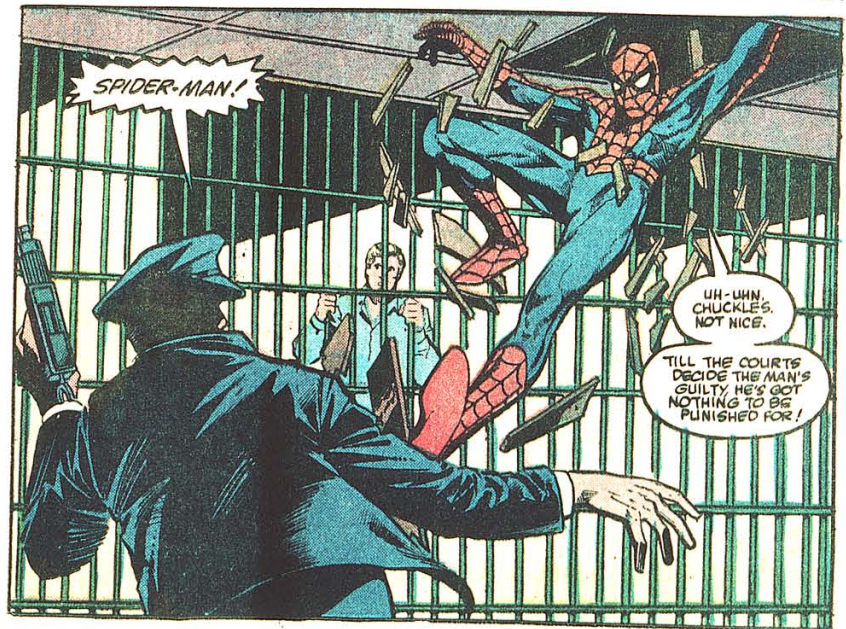
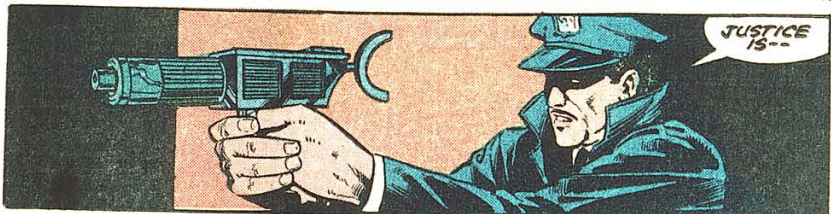
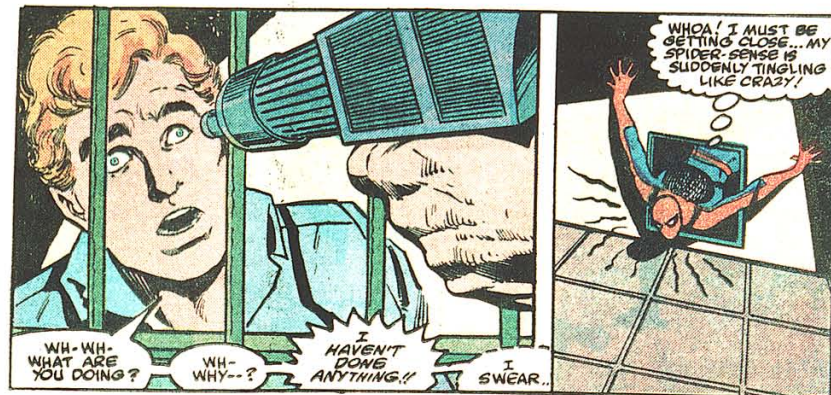
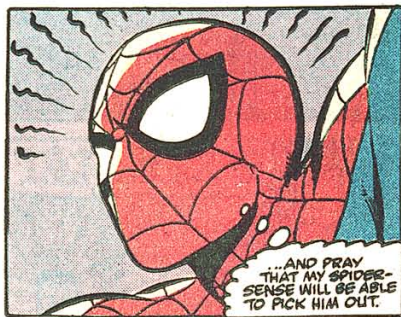
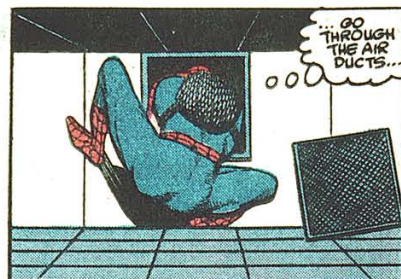
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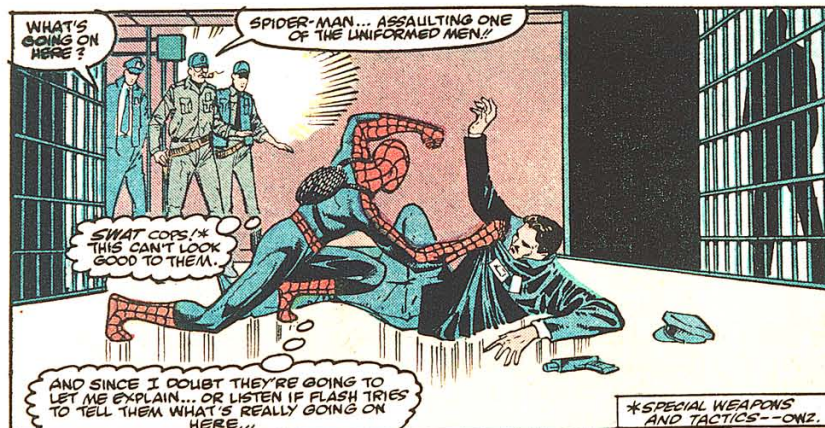
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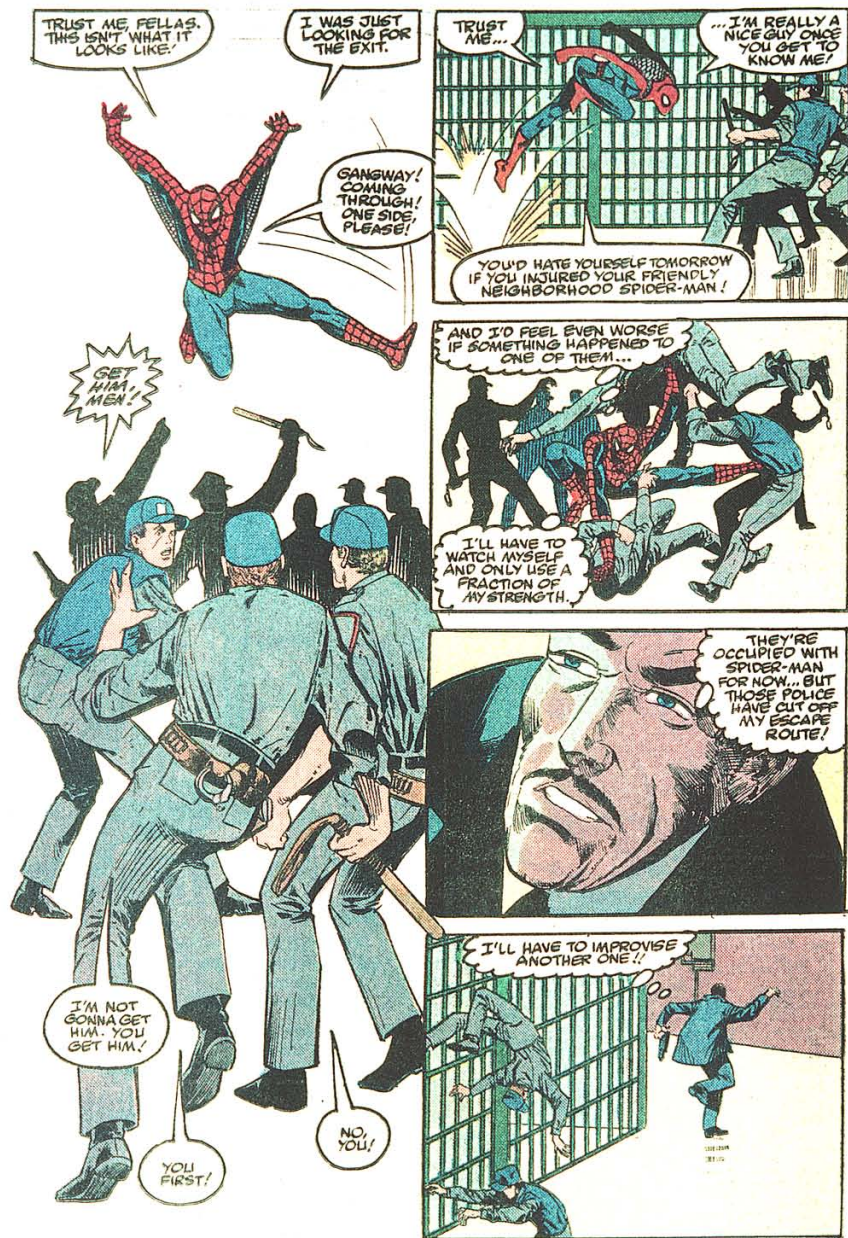
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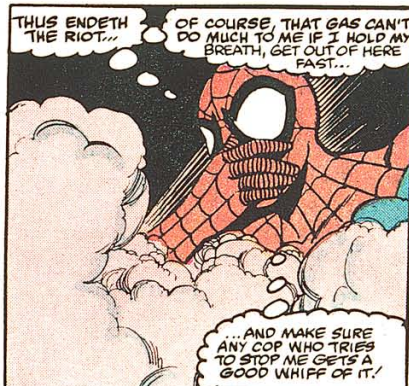
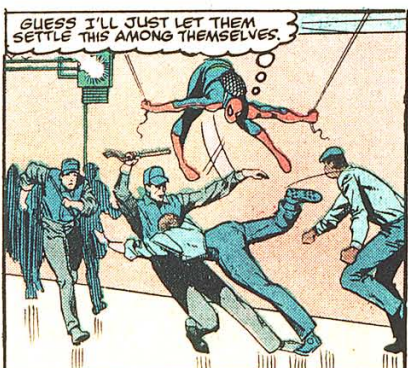
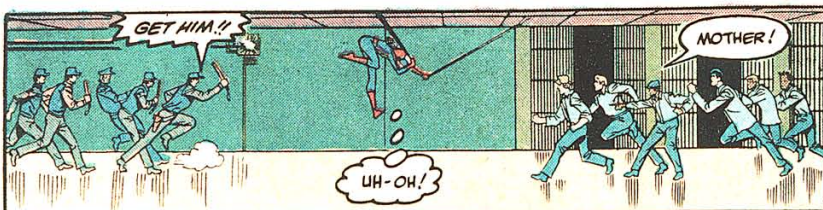
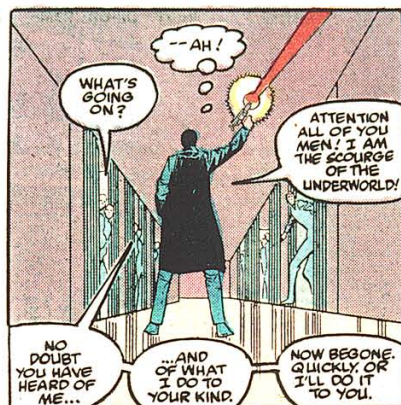
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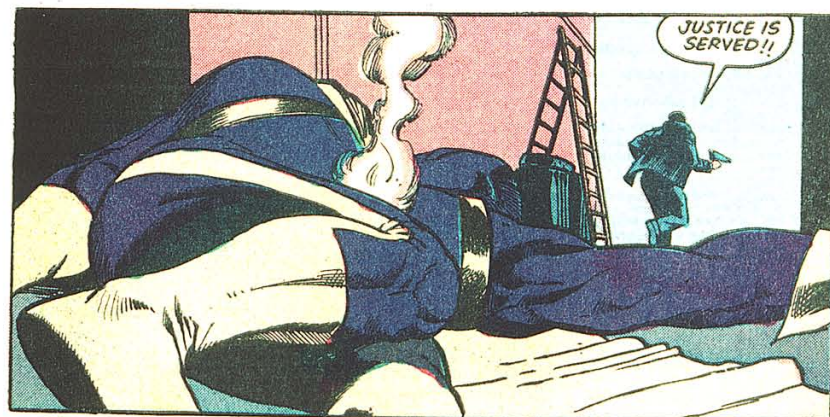
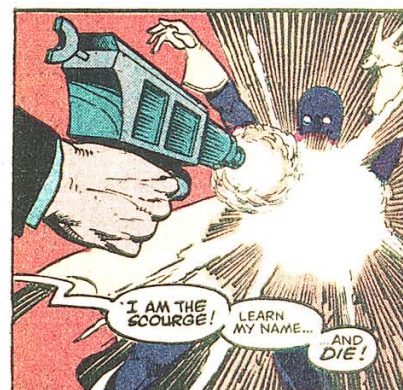
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BULLPEN BULLETINS

M

Tom DeFalco . . .

...has gotten very philosophical ever since he finished reading *Secret Wars II*. Apparently, being exposed to my keen insights into human nature, my observations on the Meaning of Life, and my reflections upon the relationship of man and god has changed him somehow. It wasn't so bad the first couple of weeks when he was just walking around with his hands folded, lost in existential pondering—but then he saw Super Bowl XXX.

"I've got it," he announced as he arrived at work on Super Bowl Monday. "I, too, have been insight into human nature, and I have devised a way to improve office morale as well as the quality of our work."

"Office morale's fine," said I, "and everybody's already doing the best he, she, or it can."

"Picture this," Tom continued, undaunted, "are you ready? Cheerleaders! What do you think? Huh?"

"You mean... girls with pom-poms?"
"And guys with megaphones! No sexism here!"

"But..."
"Think of it! For the inkers, they'd be shouting 'hold that line!' For the letterers, it'd be 'gimme an m! Gimme an a!'"

"Gimme a break!" I screamed. "Why don't you go lie down, Tom! The pressure of being Executive Editor is getting to you. You need rest. Or a shrink. Or something."

Crushed, Tom shambled away. I wondered if I'd been too rough on him.

But, then, later, I saw him delivering his latest script for *The Amazing Spider-Man* to editor Jim Owsley's office. He ran it into the room...

...and he spiked it.

Good grief.

On Another Note . . .

While out in Denver recently I happened to catch a performance by six of the most talented musicians I have ever seen—Bill Wesley, Wes Makey, Windall Armour, Rob Chamberlin, Steve Espinoza, and Curtis Bushey. Together, they're...

The Hit City Band

I understand that they'll have a syndicated TV show starting up in March called *Hit City*. Figures. Also, they'll be on the road soon, so watch for them in your town.

I never met these guys before, none of them are my relatives, and no, they don't have pictures of me in a *Compromising Situation*. I'm giving them this plug because they're just plain fantastic. When they make it big, remember, you heard about 'em here first.

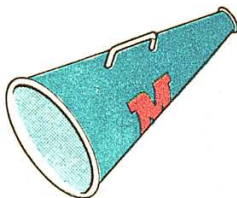
The New Universe!

Eight exciting new titles will be launched this summer, four in July and four in August. Together, they form the foundation of the *New Universe*. Twenty-five years ago Stan Lee and several extremely talented artists brought forth the Marvel Universe. Now, in honor of the silver anniversary of their achievement, we're creating another Universe, unlike anything ever created before. You'll have to see it to believe it. Watch this space for more information.

Thanks . . .

...for your support. Be well.

Jim Shooter
Editor in Chief



CHECKLIST

- ☐ CLOAK AND DAGGER #7
- ☐ DAREDEVIL #232
- ☐ WEST COAST AVENGERS #10—On the trail of the missing Ben Grimm, with special guest star, the Thing!
- ☐ NEW MUTANTS #41
- ☐ SQUADRON SUPREME (Limited Series) #11
- ☐ WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #16
- ☐ CONAN THE KING #35
- ☐ ALPHA FLIGHT #36—With the Avengers!
- ☐ CAPTAIN AMERICA #319—More than a score of Marvel villains are wiped out when the Scourge comes to town!
- ☐ POWER PACK #24
- ☐ AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #277—Watch out! It's the Scourge!
- ☐ VISION AND SCARLET WITCH (Limited Series) #10—Guest-starring the Inhumans!
- ☐ FANTASTIC FOUR INDEX #8—The real scoop on what happened in issues #126–147!
- ☐ THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE #8—"Ms" the letter!
- ☐ AVENGERS #269
- ☐ CONAN THE BARBARIAN #184
- ☐ ETERNALS #10—With the Mighty Thor!
- ☐ G.I. JOE #49—The origin of the

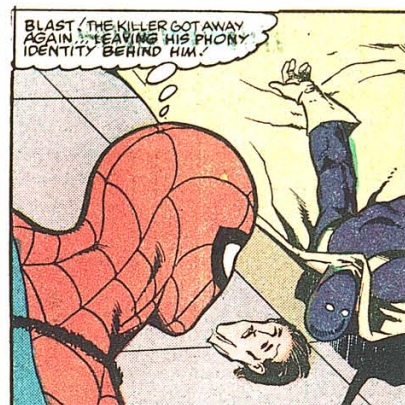
- ☐ Cobra Emperor!
- ☐ INCREDIBLE HULK #321
- ☐ MARVEL TALES #189
- ☐ POWER MAN AND IRON FIST #124—Alone in the Ninja Compound!
- ☐ SOLOMON KANE (Limited Series) #6
- ☐ X-MEN #207
- ☐ MARVEL SAGA #8—Iron Man gets his golden armor and the FF are bankrupt, while the Angel tries out his wings!
- ☐ FANTASTIC FOUR #292—Versus Adolph Hitler!
- ☐ IRON MAN #208
- ☐ PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #116
- ☐ THOR #369
- ☐ TRANSFORMERS #18
- ☐ X-FACTOR #6—Revealed at last: The master of the evil mutants!
- ☐ SECTAURS #7
- ☐ MARVEL TEAM-UP INDEX #4—Spidey and his partners swing into action in issues #60–82!
- ☐ DOCTOR WHO #22
- ☐ STAR WARS #106

- ☐ MARVEL MAGAZINES
- ☐ MARVEL AGE #40
- ☐ MARVEL FANFARE #27—BILL MANTLO and TONY SALMONS bring you a Daredevil extravaganza!

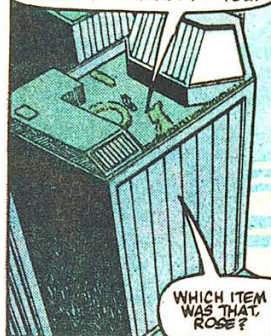
- ☐ SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #125
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- ☐ EPIC COMICS
- ☐ ELFQUEST #12
- ☐ SWORDS OF THE SWASH-BUCKLERS #7—Their only hope is... Cap'n Kidd!
- ☐ THE ONE (Limited Series) #6—The One fights the Other for the control of the Human Race!
- ☐ GROO THE WANDERER #17
- ☐ BOZZ CHRONICLES (Limited Series) #3

- ☐ STAR COMICS
- ☐ MASTERS OF THE UNIVERSE #2—The Comet Warriors drop in on He-Man and Orko, but when the Matorb Legion arrives, things really get hot!
- ☐ PETER PORKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-HAM #8—Featuring "Kimono My House or Pigs Over Tokyo!"
- ☐ EWOKS #8—Logray battles the evil witch Morag!
- ☐ MUPPET BABIES #8—Gonzo celebrates Canilla's birthday... in Featherland!
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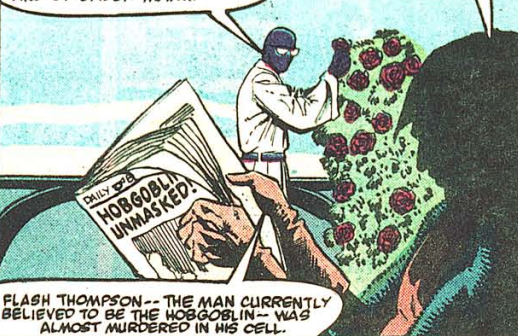
YOU SEEM MOST ABSORBED IN THE EVENING PAPER... NOTICED A NEWS ITEM WHICH I'M SURE MUST HAVE INTERESTED YOU.



WHICH ITEM WAS THAT, ROSE?

THAT A CERTAIN THORN WAS NEARLY PLUCKED FROM THE SIDE OF OUR CITY AUTHORITIES... AND OF SPIDER-MAN...

AND WHO MIGHT THAT HAVE BEEN?



FLASH THOMPSON-- THE MAN CURRENTLY BELIEVED TO BE THE HOBGOBLIN-- WAS ALMOST MURDERED IN HIS CELL.

ALMOST. WHAT A PITY IF HE HAD DIED, I COULD HAVE MOVED ABOUT WITH A LOT OF FREEDOM...



...UNTIL PEOPLE REALIZED I WAS STILL AT LARGE.

INTERESTING. AND TELL ME... WHAT MADE YOU LIGHT UPON THOMPSON AS YOUR CATSPAW IN THE FIRST PLACE?



WHY THOMPSON?

WHY NOT?



To Tom and the gang, I really got a kick out of ish 274. The art by Ron & Joe was great, & I was glad to see Mr. Romita Sr. back, if only as a contributor.

The story was fun, even though it featured the Beyonder, who I'm not really crazy about. What started getting me psyched was seeing Gwen Stacy again. I just hope seeing her doesn't screw Pete up too bad (he's got enough problems).

The high point was the Green Goblin, who I'm a real fan of. I feel that Hobgoblin is a fair successor for Norman Osborn & son, but he needs the manicness (in the pathological form) of Norm. Hobgoblin is a great character, & I'm looking forward to next ish when we discover Hobbie's true identity as (get ready) J. Jonah Jameson! Anyway, keep up the innovation of 274, and tell Jim I love the editing.

Chris Johnson
Providence, RI

Dear Web-Slingers,

ASM #274 was nothing short of terrific! Stan the Man himself would have been proud of this ish. If a man who commits a felony is a felon, then Tom DeFalco is an iron, because the irony in this story was too much for words! I mean, *Maghpie* battling in the cause of life? And with Spider-Man as his champion, to boot? Incredible! And of course, poor Peter's luck is so bad that here he was, a pawn in a cosmic game of chance with the fate of the Universe resting on his shoulders and *he never even knew what the heck was going on!*

It was also a great thrill to see the work of old-timer Jack Fury credited in a Marvel mag. As a longtime fan of his GoldenAge creation, *THE BLUE WHIZ*, I'm very glad to see that he's still in the business. Keep 'em flyin', Jack!

before I go, I just wanna say it's been one heckuva quarter century with you guys, and here's to many more! Excelsior!

A.B. Hassan
(no address given)

THE SPIDER'S WEB

JIM OWSLEY
EDITOR
ADAM BLAUSTEIN
ASSISTANT EDITOR

VIEW FROM THE TENTH FLOOR

Thursday, December 19, 1995. Now, by the time this is printed that date will be ancient history. At press time, however, this day is being remembered as *The Day Of Doom*. With the Christmas rush upon us (printers take holidays, y'know), Adam and I were responsible for nudging several Spider-projects through production and off to press. Failure would mean this issue would arrive late. Since you're reading this, you know we made it, and all is well. But I just thought you should know how close to the line we were. We were real close.

Adam and I would like to take this opportunity to thank one of the most important (if unsung) bulwarkers on our crick squad of experts. Under the unparalleled direction of Anita Duncan (Ms. Organization & Congeniality 1985) and her Aco Assistant Phil Feltz, this lone production artist has faced incredible, unrealistic deadlines, demanding editors, and even an Editor in Chief or two, and has come through every single time. Don't ask me how she does it. I have a feeling she's secretly *The Beyonder*, and I wouldn't want to give her away.

She's done a tremendous job and will all be lost without her. Especially on *The Day Of Doom*. So Adam and I would just like to say thanks to Barbara Johnston, our rock cover Production Artist.

See, Barbara? Who says nobody appreciates you? Come on by after work. Adam and I'll buy you a milk.

Jim Owsley

Sorry, Scott, no No-Prize, but you can take consolation from the fact that you're the only reader so far to notice that particular parallel. So, go ahead and award yourself a Job-Prize (which is sort of like a Fred-Prize, only more dignified!)

Scott M. Gimpie
138 Springridge Drive
Berkeley Hills, NJ 07922

Dear Spider-People,

What can I say? ASM #275 was awesome! I've been waiting with baited breath for MONTHS for the return of Spider-Man's deadliest enemy, and I know it was going to be one heck of

a rematch, but even so, this ish blew me right out of my choice!

Hobgoblin's new computerized battle system makes him possibly the most dangerous opponent our Webhead has ever faced (and thus, saying a lot), since it's Spidey's Spider-Sense that gives him his largest advantage. That's how Spidey can take on foes that are much more powerful than he is (like Firelord) without getting creamed, although when he's up against someone who can cancel out or circumvent it (like Ace and now Hobgoblin) he's a whole lot more vulnerable. I think Spidey probably relies too much on his danger sensing ability, so that when he's in situations where he's deprived of it he's really in deep trouble. Maybe after this story is over, Peter might give some thought to sharpening the rest of his skills, on the realization that he depends on the Spider-Sense too much.

As far as the identity of the Hobgoblin, as of this issue it seems like you've narrowed it down to either Ned Leeds or Flash Thompson, altho' I did notice someone at the Bugle asking if anyone had seen Lance Bannon lately, so there may yet be some surprises left. In fact, I wouldn't put it past you sneaky Spider-Writers to make Hobby turn out to be someone else entirely, just to keep us all on our toes. Keep up the great work!

Rick Fedukulous
1723 Wilson St.
Newark, NJ

Dear Jim and Adam,

The latest issue of Spider-Man with the Beyonder was really good. I'm a little tired of all this Beyonder stuff and I hope he gets offed in the big finale.

I've liked SECRET WARS II from the start, but this guy's getting on my nerves. I'll bet on the heroes' names also.

The art looked a little rushed, but that's because it was such a big issue, right?

I'm familiar with everyone's names through Marvel Age, but what's Jack Fury?

Hope after SECRET WARS, our heroes look at themselves and see that there's always someone bigger than you are on the next block. Maybe it'll make them less silly about what they do.

But not Spidey!

Howard Filson
23 Dunham's Corner
East Brunswick, NJ

Tom,

The fanfare of your book is relatively small compared with the creative quality of it. It hasn't received the attention it deserves. On the lighter side, doesn't it feel like the Lee Disco days of the glorious past? The entire flavor of the book seems fresh and innovative. The Spidey of the 60's has made a comeback.

It is great to see new characters introduced that are original as well as interesting. Puma, Silver Sabre, Fox, and Sybil prove that. They all possess style and have their distinctive personalities. Puma reminds me of Thunderbird who could have been a Marvel great but was killed before he could be explored. Puma has great potential who stands among the ranks of Wolverine, and if he is handled properly could become very popular. He is not the standard Indian stereotype, but a different kind of hero. I mean, the first who is a businessman and an assassin. I like what you have done with him so far but he could be implemented in other books.

THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN is truly a remarkable book. It is a good feeling to see writers and artists revitalize Marvel's cornerstone books, transforming dull, repetitive stories into lively, characteristic, creative ones. With FANTASTIC FOUR, THOR, and AVENGERS, AMAZING SPIDER-MAN has joined the ranks of comics that regained their former glory.

Wouldn't it be neat if Spider-Man met up with Shang-Chi one more time? It would be a classic rematch.

Michael Palmer
Peru, NY 12972

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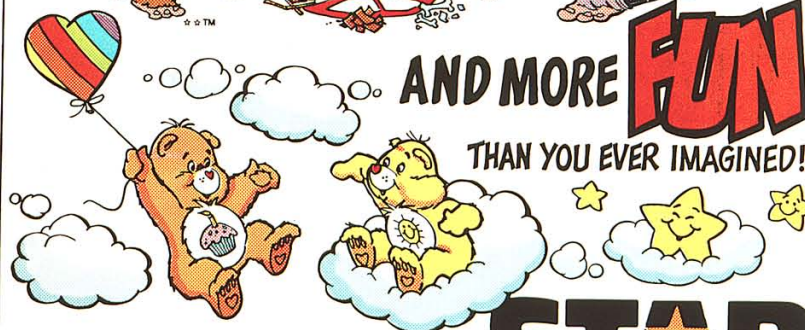
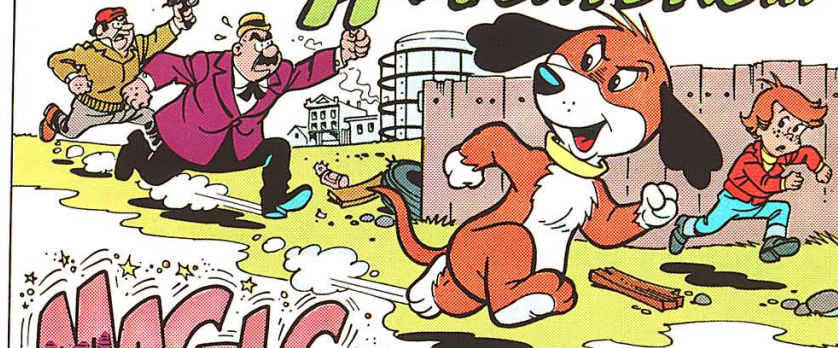
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